

REMARKS

The present application includes claims 1-19, 22, and 23. Claims 1-19, 22, and 23 were rejected. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 have been amended, claims 11-19, 22, and 23 have been cancelled, and new claim 25 has been added.

Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson (U.S. Patent No. 5,568,362) in view of Bullivant (U.S. Patent No. 5,765,698).

Claims 2 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Ehrenfels (U.S. Patent No. 5,239,129).

Claims 3 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Neufeld (U.S. Patent No. 3,623,784).

Claims 5 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Nelson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,061,966).

Claims 6, 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Lawrence et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,100).

The Applicants now turn to the rejections of claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant.

Hanson discloses a cabinet for housing electronic equipment connectable to machines or power tools for performing operations. As shown in FIG. 2, the cable openings 20 and the tie bracket 23 are spaced apart from the hinges 28. Additionally, the tie bracket 23 is secured to the bottom surface of the central casing 10, offset from the lower edge thereof. When the back door 13 is opened, the cables 18 move with the tie bracket 23 in the central casing 10 and away from the cable openings 20 in the back door 13. As shown in FIG. 5, the cables 18 are secured to the electronic power nutrunners 11a, 11b and the drive units 14a, 14b. To prevent the cables 18 from being disconnected from the central casing 10, the electronic power nutrunners 11a, 11b, and the drive units 14a, 14b when the back door 13 is opened, the cables 18 include excess slack, which may be problematic, especially in environments where space is limited.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position.”

Support for these amendments is provided in FIGS. 4, 5, and 9-13, as well as PARAS. [0032] and [0040], which provide:

[0032] As shown in FIGS. 5 and 10, rear section 36 has a cutout area 66 at one end of top side 42 adjacent right side 48. When cabinet 22 is in a closed position, cutout area 66 is vertically aligned with hinged duct 26, as best seen in FIG. 12, to allow cables 28 to pass vertically therethrough into cabinet 22. Cutout area 66 allows cables 28 to be installed without having to thread cables 28 through an opening or a knockout. As best seen in FIGS. 9 and 11, pivot point 38 is located adjacent cutout area 66. The proximity of pivot point 38 to cutout area 66 minimizes movement of cables 28 when cabinet 22 is moved from the closed position to the open position, as cables 28 rotate about pivot point 38. As shown in FIG. 13, when cabinet 22 is moved from the closed position to the open position, cables 28 are displaced within

hinged duct 26 as cables 28 rotate about pivot point 38.

[0040] As best seen in FIG. 5, front section 34 of cabinet 22 includes a flexible D-ring 112 secured to a back edge of front section 34. As shown in FIGS. 4 and 12, when cabinet 22 is in the closed position, D-ring 112 is vertically aligned with cutout area 66 in rear section 34 of cabinet 22. D-ring 112 may be rotatably flexed to an open position which allows access to the maximum extent of the opening, thus permitting easier access for the larger cables or bundles of cables. As shown in FIG. 10, D-ring 112 includes mounting holes 114 on baseplate 116 which secures D-ring 112 in a desired position on front section 34 of cabinet 22. Preferably, D-ring 112 is formed of a strong but flexible, resilient plastic material, to have significant resistance to the flexing.

More particularly, as shown in FIGS. 12 and 13, when the front section 34 of the cabinet 22 moves from a closed position to an open position, the bundle of cables 28 wraps around the pivot point 38. This is a direct result of the cutout 66 and the D-ring 112 being immediately adjacent the pivot point 38. Consequently, the shortest possible lengths of cables 28 can be used in the cabinet 22, which is critical in an environment where space is limited.

Turning now to Hansson, as described above, the cable openings 20 and the tie bracket 23 are spaced apart from hinges 28. Additionally, the tie bracket 23 is secured to the bottom of central casing 10, offset from the lower edge thereof. When the back door 13 is opened, the cables 18 move with the tie bracket 23 in the central casing 10 and away from the cable openings 20 in the back door 13.

Therefore, Hansson does not teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that "the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position," as recited in amended claim 1.

Bullivant discloses a panel assembly with angularly oriented hinges. However, Bullivant does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson. Specifically, Bullivant does not teach or suggest

that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, a combination of Hansson and Bullivant similarly fails to teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant has been overcome, and that amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 7, and 9 depend from claim 1. As described above, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 4, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant has been overcome, and that claims 4, 7, and 9 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 11, 14, 17, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applications respectfully submit that claims 1, 4, 7, and 9 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 2 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Ehrenfels.

Ehrenfels relates to a housing for a switched electrical receptacle or the like. However, Ehrenfels does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson and Bullivant. Specifically, Ehrenfels does not teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, a combination of Hansson, Bullivant, and Ehrenfels similarly fails to teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 2 depends from independent claim 1. As described above, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Ehrenfels has been overcome, and that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 12 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Ehrenfels is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applications respectfully submit that claim 2 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 3 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Neufeld.

Neufeld discloses a cabinet joint structure. However, Neufeld does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson and Bullivant. Specifically, Neufeld does not teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, a combination of Hansson, Bullivant, and Neufeld similarly fails to teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 3 depends from independent claim 1. As described above, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Neufeld has been overcome, and that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 13 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Neufeld is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applications respectfully submit that claim 3 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 5 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Nelson.

Nelson discloses an electric cabinet having a door stop. However, Nelson does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson and Bullivant. Specifically, Nelson does not teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, a combination of Hansson, Bullivant, and Nelson similarly fails to teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Claim 5 depends from independent claim 1. As described above, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Nelson has been overcome, and that claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 15 has been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Nelson is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applications respectfully submit that claim 5 is in condition for allowance.

The Applicants now turn to the rejection of claims 6, 8, 10, 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §

103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Lawrence.

Lawrence discloses a flexible intra-cabinet cable ring wire management system. However, Lawrence does not overcome the shortcomings of Hansson and Bullivant. Specifically, Lawrence does not teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1. Moreover, a combination of Hansson, Bullivant, and Lawrence similarly fails to teach or suggest that the cutout and the D-ring are immediately adjacent the pivot point, that the D-ring is secured to the back edge of the front section, and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout and the D-ring minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Claims 6, 8, and 10 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1. As described above, amended claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 8 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Lawrence, has been overcome, and that claims 8 and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Claims 16, 18, and 22 have been cancelled. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 16, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansson in view of Bullivant, and further in view of Neufeld is moot.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applications respectfully submit that claims 6, 8, and 10 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 has been amended to conform with the amendments to claim 1.

New claim 25 has been added. New claim 25 recites that the cutout is immediately adjacent the pivot point and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position.” As described above, none of the prior art of record, including Hansson, Bullivant, Ehrenfels, Neufeld, Nelson, and Lawrence, teach or suggest that the cutout is immediately adjacent the pivot point and that “the proximity of the pivot point to the cutout minimizes movement of the plurality of cables when the front section is moved from a closed position to an open position,” as recited in new claim 25. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that new claim 25 is in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-10 and 25 are in condition for allowance.

The Applicants would like to thank Examiner Hansen for his time and efforts during a telephone interview on Thursday, April 24, 2008, and appreciate his suggestions with regard to the present application.

CONCLUSION

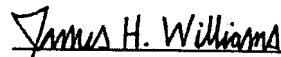
The Applicants respectfully submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner has any questions or the Applicants may be of any assistance, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the Attorney for Applicants at the number below.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any necessary fees or credit any overpayment to the Deposit Account No. 16-0228.

Respectfully submitted,

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